

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

COUNTRY	East Germany	REPORT	<input type="text"/>	25X1
SUBJECT	The East German Ministry of Health	DATE DISTR.	15 April 1953	
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This is UNEVALUATED Information

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

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1. Prof Dr. med. Hans Knoell¹

- a. Professor Knoell wishes to have the Institute for Microbiology and Experimental Therapy, Jena-Beuthenberg, transferred from the Ministry of Health to the State Secretariat for Chemicals and Building Materials.
- b. Professor Knoell expects that it will be possible to commence the first research work in the new Institute for Microbiology and Experimental Therapy shortly after the end of January 1953. He himself will be engaged in research on the following:
 - (1) The investigation of new preparations against cancer.
 - (2) The investigation of new preparations for the treatment of tuberculosis.
 - (3) The investigation of the presently known antibiotics, in relation to their effect on the organism and symptoms of resistance.
- c. The professor's experiments on the production of aureomycin have failed. He reported to the Ministry that the strains available to him were no good.
- d. Knoell told the Ministry of Health in December 1952 that VEB Jenapharm, Jena, was producing about 8 kilograms a month of "chloronitrin" (Jenapharm's form of chloramphenicol). The Ministry, however, thought that he was exaggerating and that the present capacity of Jenapharm for the production of useable "chloronitrin" is closer to 4 kilograms per month. The present production is of an optically active form, not the racemate.

2. Blood

- a. The structure of the East German blood donor organization appears to be unsatisfactory. In March 1952, Dr. med. Guenther Schuberth returned to Erfurt from a visit to Professor Dr. med. Peter Daehr of Goettingen, a specialist in blood group research matters and serology. The Land

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25 YEAR RE-REVIEW

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Thuringen Ministry of Health then reported to the East German Ministry of Health stating that Schuberth was of the opinion that the present blood donor organization needed complete reorganization. Schuberth also pointed out that the so-called blood donor centers in the various hospitals of East Germany were working on old principals and that no real blood group research or Rh-factor determination could be expected from them. Dr. Schuberth suggested, [] a blood center in each Land, which would send mobile teams around the Land, collecting blood. The blood would be returned the same day to the center which would work it up to preserved full blood and preserved plasma, for issue as necessary. After three weeks, this would be withdrawn and made into dried plasma. Schuberth was quoted as saying, ".... the future belongs to dried plasma".

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- b. The Ministry considered these matters and in June 1952, called a meeting of all Land officials responsible for the East German Blood Donor Organization in their areas. The meeting was held in Berlin and was addressed by Professor Dr. med. Friedrich-Wilhelm Breckenfeld, who was then responsible for all blood matters in East Germany (Ministry of Health - HA IV - Hygiene - Inspektion). Professor Breckenfeld defined a blood donor center in simple terms and ordered the officials to report by 1 October 1952 on suitable blood donor centers in their areas. The professor also made the points that:

- (1) Tests of blood group should be made for the 4 groups and for A-1, A-2 and the Rh-factor
- (2) Anti-Rh-Serum could be supplied by the Saechsische Serumwerk AG, Dresden.
- (3) The training of staffs for blood donor centers would be conducted in eight day courses for groups of 10 people at each of the following centers:

Zentralstelle fuer Hygiene (ZfH) Rostock - Prof. Fritz Sander

Landesinstitut fuer Hygiene, Potsdam - Prof. Friedrich Sartorius

Surgical Clinic, Erfurt - Dr. Guenther Schuberth

ZfH Leipzig - Prof. Georg Wildfuehr

University Surgical Clinic, Halle - Prof. Gerhard Rothe

- (4) The training of the heads of the blood donor centers would be carried out by the Landesinstitut fuer Hygiene, Potsdam.
- c. On 30 October 1952, the Ministry of Health gave Dr. Guenther Schuberth the assignment of developing a new blood preservation unit. He was to be responsible for:
- (1) Blood preservation bottles
 - (2) Transfusion tubes
 - (3) Filter
 - (4) Injection needles
 - (5) Transporting vessels
 - (6) The transporting vehicle.

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- d. The Ministry of Health called another meeting of all blood donor organization officials for the middle of January 1953, in St. Jacob's Hospital, Leipzig Cl, Liebigstr. 20. The chairman of the meeting was Dr. med. Hasse² of Leipzig. The agenda was: The radical reorganization of the blood donor organization and the question of developing and running a "preserved blood" organization.

3. Disease statistics for October 1952

- a. The new cases of some of the main infectious diseases, for the whole of East Germany (including East Berlin) for October 1952 were as follows:

Typhoid	249
Paratyphoid	150
Scarlet fever	5,029
Diphtheria	1,052
Encephalitis	4
Pulmonary tuberculosis	1,998
Bacterial food poisoning	65
Poliomyelitis	86

- b. The encephalitis figures above are, as for every month in the statistics, compounded from two forms of the disease: encephalitis epidemica and encephalitis vaccinalis.
- c. The general epidemiological situation in East Germany, as viewed by the Ministry, was, in October and early November 1952, considered very good.

1. Comment: East German newspapers announced in October 1952 the award of a National Prize (I class) to Dr. Knoell and Dr. Willi Koehler for increasing penicillin production and starting streptomycin production. Dr. Koehler is technical director of VEB Jenapharm.

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